Application No. 09/845,104

Amendments to the Claims:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

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    9. (Previously Presented) A method of accessing an internal network device on a protected network, the network including a security device, the method comprising:

    storing data addressed to the internal network device in an external proxy server;

    maintaining a proxy agent on the protected network, the proxy agent executing the steps of:

    polling the external proxy server for data addressed to the internal network device, where polling includes:

    connecting to the external proxy server to check for pending traffic;

    receiving a stream of spurious bytes from the external proxy server if there is nothing pending for the internal network device;

    receiving <u>data</u> from the external proxy server when the external proxy server has received data from a client;

    forwarding to the internal network device any data on the external proxy server and addressed to the internal network device; and

    forwarding to the external proxy server any data addressed to an external device in communication with the external proxy server.

    10. (Original)   The method of claim 9 further comprising polling the external proxy server at regular intervals.

    11. (Original)   The method of claim 9 further comprising communicating by the internal network device with the external proxy server using a first network protocol and the external network device communicates with the external proxy server using a second network protocol.

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12. (Original)   The method of claim 11 wherein data addressed to the internal network device using the second network protocol is transmitted to the internal device using the first network protocol so that the second network protocol is carried to the internal network device inside the first network protocol.

13. (Original)   The method of claim 9 further including multiplexing multiple requests from the proxy agent to the external proxy server through the same connection.

14. (Original)   The method of claim 9 further including maintaining by the external proxy server of maps between local TCP/IP ports of the external proxy server and private IP addresses on the protected network, the maps being distinguished by an identity of the proxy agent used to access them.

15. (Original)   The method of claim 14 further including publishing by each proxy agent a list of addresses it can reach to the external proxy server, the external proxy server using this list to create a respective map between local ports and proxy agents.

16. (Original)   The method of claim 14 further including ensuring cookie delivery.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Original)   The method of claim 9 wherein communication between the proxy agent and external proxy server is encrypted.

19. (Original)   The method of claim 18 wherein the data is encrypted using Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) for HTTP.

20. (Original)   The method of claim 19 wherein both the proxy agent and the external proxy server require X.509 certificates.

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21. (Original)   The method of claim 9 further comprising rewriting cookies with unique identifiers to prevent inadvertent transmission of private information to an incorrect recipient on the protected network.

22. (Original)   The method of claim 9 further comprising providing network administrators control over the system including granting administrators the ability to allow and deny entry into the protected network on a per session basis.

23. (Original)   The method of claim 22 wherein access is conferred by granting a key with a predetermined life span.

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